

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing Amendments and the following remarks, and entry of this paper, is respectfully requested. Moreover, the Applicant has reviewed the Final Office Action of October 31, 2003, and submits that this Amendment is responsive to all points raised therein.

Interview Summary

The applicant wishes to thank Examiner Najjar for the Telephonic Interview conducted with the applicant, Deborah T. Welsh and her Attorney, the undersigned, on December 29, 2003. During the interview all claims were discussed but agreement was not reached, as was U.S. Patent No. 6,283,065 to Shorrock, et al. (Shorrock).

The applicant presented arguments, distinguishing all pending claims over Shorrock. These arguments appear below. Amendments to claims 9 and 15 have been made in accordance with the arguments presented during the Interview. In view of these arguments, the Examiner noted that he may perform additional searching.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 6-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Shorrock (U.S. Patent No. 6,283,065). The Examiner asserts that Shorrock teaches the invention as claimed, including an animal collar that identifies a pet and allows a person to retrieve information on that pet from a database.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of locating lost pets, that includes recitations for the use of a two tag system. In this system, two tags are issued to the pet, and include a rabies tag and a second tag with information on how to access a host computer. The rabies tag is standard for all

pets, and is typically issued to the pet by an approved issuing authority, such as a veterinarian.

This tag includes information such as veterinarian name, veterinarian's telephone number, alphanumeric digits that identify the pet and a listed year corresponding to when the tag was issued.

The second tag, with its information to access a host computer, is such that the finder of the lost pet can enter the information from the rabies tag to the host computer.

As a result of this two tag system, rabies information can be matched in the host computer. If there is a match of rabies information, the lost pet's finder is provided contact information for the pet's owner.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite a computer program that utilizes the aforementioned two tags. Claim 15 has been amended to recite a host computer that utilizes the aforementioned two tags.

Shorrock is directed to a collar, whose ends are closed and bound by a stud. The stud may contain information about the pet. This collar uses a single stud in place of tags, to avoid the problems associated with conventional hanging tags. Accordingly, any use of a tag containing rabies information is simply not taught by Shorrock. Additionally, since the stud is designed to replace tags, Shorrock teaches away from using any tags at all on the pet. Moreover, since the collar uses the stud for placement of information, methods for pet location using the stud do not utilize any rabies tags issued to the pet, as does the claimed invention.

Based on the above, it is respectfully asserted that Shorrock fails to teach or suggest the invention of claims 1, 9 and 15. Accordingly, these claims are non-obvious under 35 USC 103(a) in view of the art of record.

Since claims 1, 9 and 15 are non-obvious over the art of record under 35 USC 103(a), claims 6-8, 10-14 and 16-20, respectively dependent thereon are also non-obvious under 35 USC

103(a) and allowable over the art of record for the same reasons. The claims further distinguish the invention over the art of record.

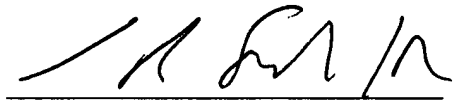
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments as to the form, content, or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Entry of this paper and allowance of all pending claims, claims 1 and 6-20, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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